## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 233 By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mike Snider for his contributions to the world of music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi River, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, Mike Snider, a native of Gleason, is one such talented musician who has contributed to the building of that heritage as a preeminent country and bluegrass musician; and

WHEREAS, this amazing musician made his way on to the country music scene in the 1980's with his incomparable wit and stellar banjo playing; working his way into people's hearts through his hundreds of performances on TNN's *Nashville Now, Music City Tonight*, and *Prime Time Country*, and his impressive seven-year stay in the cornfield on the syndicated television show *Hee Haw*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his television work, Mr. Snider entertained crowds for seven years at Nashville's Opryland USA; today, he continues to perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, having appeared on more than 1,000 shows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Snider's love for music was fueled by his wonderful parents, Billy and Rubye Snider, who encouraged their son early in his childhood as he first showed interest in the trumpet at age six and interest in the banjo at age sixteen; and

WHEREAS, another source of support in Mike Snider's life was his high school teacher,
Edgar Floyd, who was responsible for Mike's traveling to the National Future Famous of
America Convention and Camp Clements, where he provided entertainment for many; and

WHEREAS, Mike subsequently entered the Bluegrass Festival in Winfield, Kansas, where he won the prestigious National Banjo Picking Contest; and

WHEREAS, when this beloved Gleason native first appeared at the Grand Ole Opry, more than 2,000 people from his home town and the surrounding area came to support their favorite son; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Mike Snider received one of the highest accolades that can be conveyed upon a country star, membership among country music's elite in the Grand Ole Opry, where Mike continues to draw laughter and entertain crowds with his music; and

WHEREAS, a true musical genius, this banjo player has undertaken a renovation of his playing style, moving from the three-finger style picking of Earl Scruggs to the clawhammer style of banjo playing which actually predates bluegrass music; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his expertise on the banjo, Mr. Snider is also legendary for his ability in playing the mandolin and the harmonica; and

WHEREAS, recently Mike Snider assembled a group of musicians into a collaboration which has been called "the best string band in the nation"; and

WHEREAS, though his popularity as a bluegrass musician is unparalleled, Mike Snider remains grounded and humbled in the loving companionship of his wife of twenty-three years, Sabrina, whom he affectionately refers to as "Sweetie," and his talented children, Katie and Blake; and

WHEREAS, commendable success and fame in country music have only deepened the commitment of this modest professional to his roots, as exemplified by his recent gift to his hometown of land for a new park in Gleason named Mike Snider Park, which will have four ballfields and a concession stand; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to join in celebrating the numerous contributions made to the music and entertainment worlds by Mike Snider during his illustrious career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mike Snider for his devotion to music, his

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dedication to his countless fans, and his significant role in the realms of country and bluegrass music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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